

REMARKS

This amendment is presented in response to the Office Action of October 20, 2004.

Claims 1-12 are allowed.

The Office Action rejected Claims 13-22 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Okada et al (US 6,549,722) in view of Namba (US 5,541,644). The Office Action also rejected Claims 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Okada et al in view of Namba and further in view of Yogeshwar et al (US 6,026,232).

Claims 1 and 7 are currently amended. Previously Claims 1 and 7 were amended, deleting "and an equal data size" from both claims in the preliminary amendment of February 22, 2000. Subsequently Claims 1 and 7 containing "and an equal data size" were presented in the Amendment of December 8, 2003. The current amendment to Claims 1 and 7 deletes "and an equal data size" from both claims. Claims 2-6 and 8-24 remain unchanged for reconsideration. Claims 25-29 are presented as new claims.

Support for Claim 25 is found in lines 13-15 on page 40 of the application. Support for Claim 28 is found in lines 23-26 on page of the application. Support for Claim 29 is based on the description in lines 4-9 on page 40. It is respectfully submitted that no new matter is being added.

Okada in col. 18, lines 10-24 discloses, "One interactive operation widely sought in multimedia applications today is for the user to be able to change the position from which a scene is viewed during reproduction of that scene. This capability is achieved by means of the multiple angle function. This multiple angle function makes possible applications whereby, for example, a user can watch a baseball game from different angles (or virtual positions in the stadium), and can freely switch between the views while viewing is in progress. In this example

of a baseball game, the available angles may include a position behind the backstop centered on a fielder, the pitcher, and the catcher, and one from center field showing the view to the pitcher and catcher.”

Therefore, “multiple angle function” defined in Okada means a conventional multiple angle function to switch between views from different angles.

However, in the presently claimed invention, it is clearly described in lines 5-10 on page 24 that “since the data sizes of VOBUs 43a through 43c are the same as each other and the reproducing time of the images corresponding to the VOBUs 43a through 43c is the same, the three images corresponding to the three angles can be reproduced synchronously. As a result, an audience can enjoy the three images without a sense of incongruity.”

Therefore, multiple angle function defined in the present specification means to reproduce a plurality of images simultaneously, but not to switch between views from different angles. This feature of the presently claimed invention is clearly recited in the last paragraph of claim 13 as follows: “wherein the second image data is compressed data representing second image to be reproduced in synchronization with the first images.”

As for Namba, the Office Action states that Namba discloses multiple images displayed simultaneously on a screen indicating as in col 5, lines 9-34; and col. 8, lines 28-38. However this is incorrect. Namba merely discloses that multiple frames of a developed film are simultaneously displayed on the screen, but does not disclose that one of the frames is displayed in synchronization with the other frames as recited in the above quoted claim languages. In other words, if each of frames is sequentially displayed on the screen, all the frames are simultaneously displayed even in this case. Namba does not display each of frames in synchronization with the other frames.

As explained above, Okada switches between views from different angles. Namba displays multiple frames of a developed film on the screen all at once. Therefore, objectives of technical idea of Okada are totally different from those of Namba, so that there is no motivation to combine Okada and Namba. While these references may appear to have somewhat similar individual components, their references have widely different configurations and their combination with regard to certain features would inevitably result in conflicts of purpose.

In addition, both Okada and Namba do not teach or suggest that one image data is reproduced in synchronization with the other image data. Consequently if a skilled person refers to Okada and Namba, one can not obtain the present invention. For the reasons presented above, the rejection under 35 USC 103 (a) should therefore be withdrawn.

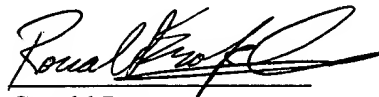
It is respectfully submitted that this language is neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited art, alone or in combination.

For all of the reasons above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are in immediate condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to

withdraw the rejections of the claims, to enter the amendment, to allow the claims, and to pass this application to early issue.

Applicants have enclosed a check in the amount of \$1020.00 for the three months extension. However, if any additional fees are due, please charge such sums to our Deposit Account 50-1145.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gerald Levy", written over a horizontal line.

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